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The Columbian Balance, AND REPOSITORY.

"HAIL SACRED POLITY, BY FREEDOM REAR'D!
"HAIL SACRED FREEDOM, WHEN BY LAW RESTRAIN'D!"
BEATTIE.

HUDSON, (NEW-YORK) TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1805.

Editorial.

FEDERALISM.

. . . . . "You were us'd
To say, extremity was the trier of spirits;
That common chances common men could bear;
That, when the sea was calm, all boats alike
Shew'd mastership in floating. Fortune's blows,
When most struck home, being gently warded, crave
A noble cunning. You were us'd to load me
With precepts that would make invincible
The heart that conn'd them."——

SHAKESPEARE.

WITH pain and disappointment, we discover, in some of our brother editors, evident signs of despondency—with pain, because it has an injurious tendency—with disappointment, because we did believe that federalists knew better how to bear adversity. Neither nations, individuals, sects nor societies can expect to enjoy uninterrupted prosperity and happiness. Every thing human is subject to change; and nothing more so, than political parties. Federalists have had a glorious day—glorious, because, when their sun was in its zenith, their acts were tempered with justice and moderation—their power was not abused—they were not intoxicated with prosperity. Aiming only at the public good, they calmly relied on the public sentiment for support. They invited their opponents to investigate their measures with freedom; and repoing on the conscious rectitude of their motives, they smiled contemptuously on al who called those motives in question. But their opponents were ambitious, cunning, artful, persevering and industrious beyond example. They were not disheartened by defeat. They stuck at no means, however base. They were not abashed by detection. They advanced by degrees, until they have at length gained the ascendancy. Viewing the two parties as they now stand, can the federalists see any cause for despondency? Nay, have they not the strongest evidence, that their political opponents are soon to become their own executioners. The democrats have now arrived at that giddy height from which they must eventually fall by their own indiscretion. Mad, intoxicated, heated with revengeful passions, they lose sight of prudence—they turn their power into an engine of persecution—they put a gag in the mouth of Truth; and contumeliously taunt their vanquished enemies. Selfish, jealous and distrustful, they quarrel amongst themselves for the spoils gained in victory—they have no confidence in each other—they inhabit a crazy and divided house, which cannot stand. The moderate and reflecting men of the party, start back with horror from the scene of anarchy which is presented to their view, and sicken at the thought of having been instrumental in bringing about such a state of things. Safety must finally be sought under the banners of federalism. The people will again return to their senses, and democracy must retrace its steps.

SOUTHERN CUSTOMS TRAVELLING NORTHERLY.

IT has long been customary for Southern patriots, who feel an itch for office, to advertise themselves as candidates in the public papers. It is said that the printers in states which sanction this custom, derive very considerable profit, from the notices of these modest patriots. We therefore announce, with great pleasure, that since the election of president, this state has become so fond of Virginia notions, that the custom is likely to prevail here, as will appear by the following article which we copy from the New-York *Mercantile Advertiser*:—

"Dr. JAMES SMITH, of this city, has "offered himself a candidate to represent "the third southern congressional district "of the state of New-York in the Con-"gress of the United States, in the room "of Dr. Mitchell, removed to the Senate; "and has published an address to the E-"lectors, in which he says their "conduct "has hitherto been marked with a *criminal apathy*, pregnant with incalculable evils;" and, that it has "pointed "them out the objects of *contempt and* "*derision*." He vindicates the practice "of offering himself to their choice by the "example of Virginia; shews ten advan-"tages which would result from this prac-"tice becoming general; and "*presents* "*his willingness*" to forego the gratifica-"tion of repose "in behalf of the com-"mercial, mechanic, and agricultural in-"terests of the country."

We have not yet seen Dr. Smith's address; but we dare presume it is a most ingenious thing. We admire, above all, his mode of vindicating the practice; and it is to be hoped that the time is not far distant, when it will be a sufficient justification of any act to say,—*such things are customary in Virginia*. Although we were sensible that many advantages would result from the practice becoming general, yet we could not have believed that they would amount to *ten* in number.—We hope and trust the citizens of New-York will reward Dr. Smith for his patriotic and praise worthy offer, by giving him the seat, he so modestly asks for.

Political.

With great pleasure, we extend to the writer of the following article (the Editor of the Utica Patriot) *the right hand of fellowship.* Animated by such sentiments, federalists have nothing to do but to remain stedfast in their faith, and all will yet be well. Edit. Bal.]

FROM THE UTICA PATRIOT.

That "*there is a destiny in this strange world that oft decrees an undeserved doom*," is but too manifest in the success which has crowned the machinations of anti-federalists, who are enemies to the federal government, and in the depression of those who struggled for the preservation of that libery which such a system could alone secure. In the moral government of the world, we are daily witnesses, that by the inscrutible decrees of providence, "whose ways are past finding out," the wicked prosper, and the righteous are caused to taste the bitter cup of adversity. But we are assured that the day of retribution will eventually come, that tho' the wicked for a time are suffered to enjoy the fruits of their iniquity, and triumph over the wisdom of the virtuous, yet that the same Almighty arm which upholds them for a time, will arrest them in their career, "and destruction will come upon them like a whirlwind." That the motives which actuate federalists are virtuous, that their cause is just, and that the principles which are enstamped on every feature of the federal constitution, originated in wisdom, are truths that console them in adversity, and will prompt them never to cease in their exertions. They will face the enemy in every position they assume, and we trust they will eventually resume that station from which they have been so unmeritedly driven. Power obtained by such means, and bottomed on such policy as that which has graced the cause of anti-federalism, cannot be permanent. It carries with it the seeds of its own dissolution. The same spirit that dictated and the same passions that prompted to calumny, detraction, falsehood, and every species of infamy, to accomplish their nefarious purposes, in opposition to federalists, still exist among the party, and will be turned to the destruction of each other. We have already witnessed instances of disaffection, and the party must ere long fall under the pressure of its own iniquity. Discord is the legimate child of such parents, and division and weakness issue from their loins. The claims of needy office-seekers are too numerous to be gratified and disappointment will engender hatred. Destitute of principle, and guided by no motive but self interest, the disaffected will revolt, the party will become disorganized, and the miserable dupes of unprincipled demagogues, left to lament their credulity and sigh over the ruin they have occasioned. The cause of virtue and truth must prevail.—The *stamina*, the vital principle of government yet remains, and tho' many untoward events seem to threaten universal destruction, yet there is a power who can say "thus far shalt thou go and no farther." The angry passions of its enemy are somewhat allayed by gratification, and reason may dictate the importance of preserving so much as is necessary for his own political existence. The cause of federalism, we trust, has passed its most gloomy period. The ebb tide has arrived to its utmost point, and will shortly be succeeded by a flood which will overwhelm its enemies in "one prodigious ruin."—The government again in the hands of the federalists, the wounds which have been inflicted on the constitution, would be shortly healed, the government would convalesce from its present weakness to perfect health and vigour, and the blessings of rational liberty, would again be enjoyed in its pristine purity. Then let federalists, knowing the justice of their cause and its importance to the salvation of their country, be animated to exertion and let each good man and true, adopt for himself the language of the poet—

——— "Here I take my stand,
Here on the brink, the very verge of liberty:
Altho' contention rise upon the clouds,
Mix heav'n with earth, and roll the ruin onward;
Here will I fix, and breast me to the shock,
Till I, or *Denmark* fall."———

FROM THE PHILADELPHIA GAZETTE.

From Washington, Dec. 24.—The bill for regulating the clearance of armed merchant vessels occupied the principal attention of the house this day. Whatever may be said to the contrary, I feel a perfect conviction that very many of the democratic members of the house entertain a strong dislike to the interests of our merchants. This dislike has been strikingly exemplified in the conduct of Mr. Eppes, the President's son-in-law.—Having failed in gaining a majority for wholly suppressing the commercial intercourse with St. Domingo;—an intercourse which is fully justified by Vatel and Grotius as well as the dictates of common sense; and an intercourse moreover, which has never been officially forbidden by the French, and against which not even a request has been officially made by that power; Mr. Eppes has now bro't forward a bill, which, under pretence of preventing outrages on our part, is only calculated to embarrass and unnecessarily distress commerce. Mr. Morrow and Dennis spoke in favor of recommitting, the bill, fifty appeared in favor of recommitting, and fifty against it; the Speaker decided against recommitting. It was then moved to recommit the second section of the bill. Mr. R. Griswold, Dana, and Dennis opposed the bill with much argument, and at considerable length. It was asked, what necessity existed for the bill, or why the preservation of peace was not as likely to continue without as with this compelling our merchants to provide such exorbitant security? whether any *offensive* use of arms had been, or was like to ensue? whether the bill was intended to satisfy or to please one of the new made emperors? whether the fear of offending such a power was to prevent the exercise of our commercial rights? It was stated, that it was not our business to enquire how St. Domingo became independant; it was sufficient for us that she was so. It was stated, that many vessels were built on the Western waters, for the purpose of being sold in the West-Indies; and it was urged that the owners of such vessels ought to be allowed to sell also the arms that were necessarily employed for the security of such vessels. It was urged that by the present provision of the bill, instead of the owner or master, the vessel itself was liable *to be hung*; and the difficulty of executing such punishment on such guilty vessels, ought to be considered a serious objection to the bill. Eppes was the principal speaker in favor of the bill. He said it had been committed, recommitted and recommitted again (which only proves that they who drew it up, went on *wrong principles*, or were bunglers.) He had no idea of allowing the independence of St. Domingo, nor did he include the blacks in the rights of man. His wish was, to prevent arming altogether; but as the house had decided against him, his wish then was, to prevent an improper use of arms, and this was to be effected by compelling heavy security; hence the peace of the United States would not be so liable to hazard.

In answer to some observations of Mr. Griswold, he said, that if the gentleman from Connecticut should go on board an armed merchant ship and commit outrages, and if he [Eppes] were a judge to try him, he would certainly hang him —Mr. Griswold told him he had no doubt of that.

Mr. Jackson, a young man from Virginia, who wishes to make a figure in Congress, but who never will a great one, spoke at some length in favor of the bill; but I noticed nothing worthy of much notice: he said we were forcing a trade with St. Domingo, in violation of all laws *human* and *divine*. Smilie said something about "*a* improper act," and that "the times *has* changed," &c. but his arguments and language are so much alike, that there was nothing worth remembering,

The yeas and nays were ; in favor of the bill 76, againſt it 33.

Thus the bill has paſſed ; and it appears to me to be a ſanction by Congreſs of the St. Domingo trade : and the only injury to our merchants is the requiring of unneceſſary ſecurity.

The Houſe adjourned till Wedneſday.

Editor's Closet.

MITCHELL'S POETRY.

I have received an *Addreſs to the New-Year*, dedicated to the patrons of the Plebeian, and written, without any queſtion, by that rare child of genius, Mitchell, of whom I have hitherto had occaſion to make honorable mention. If Mitchell would take my advice, he would never again beſtride his Pegaſus. Why his neck has not already been broken, it is difficult to tell ; for ſuch a hobbling, flouncing, ſtumbling poney, one would ſuppoſe, would unhorſe a better rider than Mitchell. The addreſs, now before me, is ornamented with a moſt elegant border, and with a cap of *maſonic* emblems. Deceived by theſe outſide appearances the reader would naturally expect to find ſomething within the encloſure, at leaſt tolerable But on examination, theſe ornaments prove to be mere gulltraps, ſet to catch the unwary. Mitchell, in this reſpect, imitates certain keepers of little paltry inns, who hang out an elegant ſign of *maſonry* to entice their travelling *brethren* to call and ſpend their money, when their fare is ſo mean and coarſe, and ſo badly ſerved up, that it is hardly fit to throw to the dogs.

Let us now paſs over the border, and view the inſide of the work :—

The poet bids eighteen hundred five "good morning" with "a low congee" and then ſays,

"By chance you've found us all alive,
Except some few who're dead and gone," &c.

Mitchell ſeems to ſtrive to avoid in his poetry, thoſe bulls and blunders, which ſo frequently occur in his proſe. In this place he has been very careful to tell us that *all are alive except a few who are dead*—a very wiſe obſervation, and one which has alſo the merit of being true.

The poet then addreſſes the "dread power," in the following elegant ſtrain :

"While I, your laureat bard, presume,
My *vive voce* fiddle to tune,
And, regal minstrel like, upon it,
Present you with a birth-day sonnet.
And first, 'tis right I should inform you
Of past events, thereby to warn you
To shun the rocks and sand banks quick,
On which your predecessors split."

This is the firſt time I ever heard of a "*vive voce* fiddle ;" but I once knew a man who gravely declared, that, "of all *inſtrumental* muſick he liked *vocal* the beſt." Mitchell's idea, however, ſeems to be tolerably apt ; for, if all accounts are true, he is not much unlike a fiddle. It is underſtood that he could be made to play almoſt *any tune*. Allowing the idea to be correct, I think the metre and melody of the line might be greatly improved, as thus,

While I, your laureat bard, presume,
My *vocal violin* to tune.

But, after all, the lines will not jingle. Out of the four couplets above quoted, there is but one good rhyme. "*Preſume*" and "*tune*," are a bad match—"*inform you*" and "*warn you*" worſe ſtill—"*quick*" and "*ſplit*" worſe and worſe.

Next follows a ſimile, for which the writer deſerves credit. It is not only apt and natural, but it furniſhes, whatever might have been the object of the poet, a moſt accurate idea of the preſent adminiſtration—

"He, like most men who grasp at power,
The *loaves* and *fishes* to devour,
Commenc'd his reign with mildest sway,
Swept snows and melted ice away ;
Call'd southern gales on balmy wing,
And gave the flowing charms of spring ;
* * * *
But when the height of power he'd gain'd,
And all he hop'd or wish'd obtain'd,
He then the tyrant 'gan to play,
And rul'd us with despotic sway."

Next comes another jumble of bad rhymes—"*name*" and "*reign*" are coupled ; and in the courſe of the piece, I find, "*hack us*" and "*at us*"—"*make*" and "*ſtate*"—"*beatings*" and "*weapons*," &c. But the following couplet I think moſt deſerving of notice and admiration—

"And if no hole is found to stop 'em,
They'll soon be sprawling at the bottom."

Mitchell is here ſpeaking of the federaliſts ; but on reading it, methought I beheld, the poor moon-ſtruck poet, fretting, panting, and ſtruggling to gain the height of Parnaſſus ; but, being too heavy to aſcend, he came headlong down, and, together with his Pegaſus, were ſprawling in the mud at the bottom of the hill.

STRANGE THINGS IN BOSTON.

The *Boſton Democrat*, under date of December 12, ſays, "the *winter* is *over and gone*."

STRANGER THINGS IN HUDSON.

Our neighbor Stargazer, adverti ſes that his Almanack for 1805, will not be publiſhed until the enſuing ſummer.

ETYMOLOGY.

The *Luzerne Federaliſt* furniſhes the following ſingular article. We preſume its correctneſs will not be doubted :—

"When Mr. Jefferſon was governor of Virginia, the ſaucy Britons, under the command of Lord Dunmore invaded that ſtate, and our courageous chief is well known to have retired to Carter's Mountain for a place of refuge ; and out of pure gratitude for the ſecurity afforded him, he gave it the fine and appropriate name of Monticello. This is derived from the two latin words *Mons*, a mountain, and *Celo*, to hide, and rendered into plain Engliſh, is *a mountain to hide in !* When the philoſopher ventured again into the world to preſerve the remembrance of his exploit, he tranſfered the name from Carter's Mountain to his own place of reſidence."

To Readers.

Many complaints have come to hand within few weeks, of the late and irregular arrival of our papers. As we are particularly careful in packing and directing the Balance ; and knowing that they are promptly ſent from the poſt-office in this city, we are at a loſs to account for theſe irregularities ; but we will endeavor to diſcover the cauſe, and "correct the procedure."

Agricultural.

EXTRACT.

FROM THE COURANT.

On the high cultivation of land in Europe.

IT is ſtated in a late publication that, in England and Wales, there are forty-four thouſand acres of *hop-ground*, producing on an average, thirty pounds ſterling an acre ;—ten thouſand acres of *nurſeries*, producing fifty pounds an acre ;—and fifty thouſand acres of *Garden ground*, yeilding the ſum of ſixty pounds an acre. The whole ground that is cultivated in theſe three ways, being one hundred and four thouſand acres, is here ſuppoſed to yeild annually the vaſt ſum of four million eight hundred and twenty thouſand pounds ſterling—*that is*, not far from twenty million dollars.

Arthur Young, ſpeaking of the high ſtate of cultivation to which they bring their land, in Iſola, that belongs to the plain of Bergamo in the territory of Venice, ſays, " It has twelve communities or pariſhes, that vie with one another in carrying cultivation to its greateſt height ; they reject entirely the plough, and do every thing with the ſpade ; and eſteem five acres ſufficient maintainance for four perſons, in all their expences whatever."

St. Pierre, a celebrated French writer, deſcribing the high ſtate of cultivation, in a certain part of France, ſays, " I have ſeen *there*, in the ſame field, cherry trees growing in potatoe beds ; vines clambering up along the cherry trees, and lofty walnut trees riſing above the vines ; four crops, one above another, within the earth, upon the earth, and in the air.—The more inhabitants any country contains, (obſerved that writer,) the more productive it is, France could maintain, perhaps, four times more people than it now contains, were it like China, parcelled out into a great number of ſmall freeholds." Yet France, whoſe population (according to the opinion of St. Pierre) might be increaſed fourfold by bringing all its land into the beſt ſtate of cultivation, was then about three times more populous according to their reſpective extents, than the ſtate of Connecticut now is.—It admits of no doubt, that the lands in this ſtate might be ſo cultivated as to ſupport comfortably, double, perhaps treble the inhabitants it now contains.

Monitorial.

To aid the cause of virtue and religion.

EXTRACT.

FROM THE TRUE AMERICAN.

" *TO err ſometimes, is nature ; to rectify error is always glory*," ſaid the illuſ-illuſtrious Waſhington, as he extended his hand to a man whom he had offended, and acknowledged he had been in the wrong.—Did we all feel the truth of this ſentiment, and ſee the nobleneſs of ſuch conduct, how much diſputing, contention, and wrangling might be avoided—how much our happineſs might be encreaſed. But inſtead of confeſſing and retracting our fault, as did the magnanimous Waſhington, how many of us, after we have diſcovered our errors, ſtill cheriſh them, and roll them as ſweet morſels under our tongues ! Our *pride* reſiſts the idea of acknowledging that we have been deceived or duped, and we had rather perſiſt forever in the wrong than confeſs we have ever been in it.

Such obſtinacy is, however, in the higheſt degree cenſurable. We are all liable to be led aſtray by the errors of our own imaginations, or the falſhoods, miſrepreſentations, and artifices of our fellow men.—This liability is the common lot of humanity. It is no crime. It is no diſgrace.—But after mature reflection, or better information, has diſcovered to us our error, then it is both criminal and diſgraceful not to abandon it and embrace the truth. Let thoſe who have been deceived by artful and deſigning men, and who have been hitherto prevented by a *falſe ſhame* from acknowledging the deception, and turning from the error of their ways, remember the ſaying of Waſhington, "*To err ſometimes, is nature ; to rectify error is always glory.*"

Selected.

FROM THE REPERTORY.

IN an addreſs of Villaret, *Captain General* of Martinique, recommending to the inhabitants a feſtival on the occaſion of Bonaparte's elevation to the Imperial dignity, we obſerve the following paſſage :—

" *Inhabitants of Martinique*—You have one motive more than other Frenchmen, to rejoice on this great event : JOSEPHINE was born among you ; This iſland was her cradle. Martinique has the glory of having given to France her firſt Empreſs, and of now poſſeſſing the auguſt mother, who gave her the firſt leſſons of thoſe ſublime virtues, which ſhe has carried to the throne !"

This may be flattering enough to the Creoles of Martinique, but to the proud natives of old France it muſt and ever will be a galling circumſtance, that their *Emperor* and *Empreſs* were picked up by accident, in two obſcure Iſlands ; one in Corſica, the other in Martinique. Theſe are the ſucceſſors of the far famed race of *Bourbons*. In favor of Martinique we may probably ſay, with ſafety, that the *ſublime virtues* which carried the Empreſs *Joſephine* to the throne, through ſeveral hands, are by no means rare among the *accompliſhed natives* of that colony.

FROM THE SAME.

BIRD-CATCHING IN VIRGINIA.

IN the year 1610, a Book was publiſhed in London containing a wonderful account of the manner in which the firſt ſettlers of Virginia *caught birds*. It is a characteriſtic anecdote, and worthy of preſervation. The art has been taught to ſucceeding generations, and is at this day practiſed by Virginians in the ſame manner, *mutatis mutandis*, that it was two centuries ago. I have copied the ſtory verbatim from the printed page. " As in the great famine of Iſrael," ſays this pious hiſtorian, " God commanded Elias to flie to the brooke Cedron, and there fed him by Ravens ; ſo God provided for our diſconſolate people by foules ; but with an admirable difference ; unto Elias the Ravens brought meat ; unto our men the foules brought themſelves for meate ; for then they whiſtled, or made any STRANGE NOYSE, the foules would come and ſit on their ſhoulders ; they would ſuffer themſelves TO BE TAKEN AND WEIGHED by our men, who would make choice of THE FATTEST AND FAIREST,* and let flie the LEAN AND LIGHTEST ! ! † An accident, I take it, that cannot be paralleled by any Hyſtorie !"

*Gerry, Bowdoin, Clinton, et id omne genus.

†viz. Burr, Euſtis, Breckenridge, Elliot, &c.

TOAST,

Drank at Boſton, at the late anniverſary of the landing of the firſt ſettlers of New-England, at Plymouth :—

The Holy Land to which our Fathers were Pilgrims—May future emigrants, like them, be honeſt ſeekers *for* juſtice, not fugitives *from* it.

Memorial.

To the Senate and Houſe of Repreſentatives of the United States of America in Congreſs aſſembled.

The MEMORIAL of the Chamber of Commerce of the city of New-York, reſpectfully ſheweth—

That your Memorialiſts are informed a Bill is depending in Congreſs, the object of which is, to reſtrain merchant veſſels of the United States, from ſailing in an armed condition. Seriouſly impreſſed with the importance of this ſubject and preſuming that their diſtance from the ſeat of government, will probably deprive them of an opportunity of conſidering the tendency of the proviſions of the propoſed law, prior to the final deciſion of the Legiſlature, they reſpectfully requeſt permiſſion to offer their ſentiments on a meaſure, which muſt directly affect their intereſts, and of which the conſequences are, in their judgment, connected with the ſecurity, credit and proſperity of their country. Your Memorialiſts cordially approve the wiſe and virtuous policy of cheriſhing the friendſhip of all nations, by a ſtrict obſervance of the obligations of juſtice and humanity. They acknowledge which ſatisfaction, that ſince the commencement of the exiſting war, the commerce of the United States has not to their knowledge, ſuffered any injuries which can juſtly be attributed to the governments of Europe; they explicitly diſclaim any intention of ſeeking to derive unfair advantages, from the misfortunes of the belligerent nations, and they ſolemnly engage to ſupport with all their influence, any regulations enjoined by treaties, or the eſtabliſhed uſages of civilized ſtates; they merely deſire that ſo far as is conſiſtent with juſtice, policy and public compact, a ſpirit of enterprize, ſuited to the genius and circumſtances of the people, which in a ſhort period has raiſed the United States to a diſtinguiſhed rank as a commercial nation, may be tolerated and encouraged.

Your Memorialiſts are deliberately convinced, that the commerce of the United States is too diverſified and widely extended, to admit of an adequate protection againſt unauthoriſed depredations, by means of public convoys, except at an expence, which the public opinion of this country, is unprepared to ſupport: at the ſame time, they perceive with anxiety and the deepeſt concern, that a ſtate of things has commenced and is rapidly advancing, for which ſome new and effectual remedy muſt be provided, or from which conſequences muſt enſue of a moſt alarming nature: Conſequences which may firſt impoveriſh and then depopulate our cities, and diſſipate the maritime reſources of our country; thereby undermining every ſource of national induſtry, whether employed in commerce, agriculture or manufactures. Though the reſources of the commercial intereſt, are probably adequate at preſent, to the protection of their rights, yet the evils with which they are menaced, muſt ſoon be controuled, or become inveterate; to organize, develope and regulate the management of theſe reſources, is an object of momentous concern to your Memorialiſts, in which they pray the aid and direction of the public councils. The duties of neutral merchants, as underſtood by your Memorialiſts, conſiſt in the due obſervance of the following rules—

1ſt. Not to protect under falſe appearances, the ſhips or property of the ſubjects of belligerent nations.

2nd. Not to reſiſt the reaſonable viſitation and ſearch of the ſhips of war of belligerent nations.

3rd. Not to ſupply either party with articles contraband of war. And

4th. Not to enter ports in a ſtate of blockade.

Your memorialiſts do not conſider it as a duty or uſage of a neutral nation, to enforce by legal ſanction the obſervance of theſe rules; but merely to apprize its citizens of the nature of their obligations, ariſing under treaties, or the general law of nations, thereby ſubjecting them to ſuch penalties as cuſtom has eſtabliſhed; theſe penalties can only be rightfully inflicted by regular tribunals, eſtabliſhed by the belligerent nations; nor can they exceed the right of condemning the property attempted to be illegally concealed or tranſported.

Your Memorialiſts, being however deſirous of evincing, that they are influenced by no other than pure and reaſonable intentions, will cheerfully ſubmit to a law for reſtraining the armament of private veſſels, except in conformity with the following principles.

1ſt. That the veſſels ſhall wholly belong to citizens of the United States.

2nd. That the cargoes laden on board ſuch veſſels, ſhall wholly belong to citizens of the United States, and except neceſſary munitions and merchandizes to or from ports, eaſtward of the Cape of Good Hope, and weſtward of Cape-Horn, ſhall in no degree conſiſt of articles declared contraband of war, either by the general law of nations or by treaty with the United States.

3rd. That owners of armed veſſels be required to give bonds for a reaſonable amount that they will not ſell or charter ſuch veſſels in the dominions of any foreign ſtate or nation, in America, or elſewhere in foreign countries to the ſubjects of the belligerent parties.

4th. That the maſters and chief officers of all armed veſſels, be required to give bonds that they will not attempt to enter a blockaded port, and that they will not reſiſt the lawful viſitation and ſearch of a national ſhip of any European belligerent power: If deemed expedient, the maſters and chief officers, may be further rendered liable, to ſuch perſonal penalties, as the wiſdom of congreſs may preſcribe. But your Memorialiſts beg leave to obſerve that as the property of Merchants is frequently expoſed to condemnation in foreign countries, in conſequence of irregularities committed by maſters of veſſels, they deem it inequitable, that the rigor of this ſevere penalty ſhould be increaſed by ſubjecting Merchants, or ſhip owners, to additional forfeitures, or by compelling them to become ſureties for the conduct of individuals in their ſervice, exceeding the value of the counter indemnities, which perſons of this diſcription may be preſumed generally able to provide. Having ſtated their opinion of the nature of the reſtrictions on armed veſſels, which it may be prudent to eſtabliſh, your Memorialiſts reſpectfully requeſt that the arguments in favour of their expediency and fitneſs for the circumſtances of the preſent times, may be attentively conſidered. It is a fact too notorious to require illuſtration, that the naval power of Great Britain, has obtained ſuch an aſcendency as to afford almoſt complete protection to her extenſive commerce, by regular convoys: To ſecure her foreign poſſeſſions from all probable danger of internal attacks: And to compel the colonies of her enemies to maintain a defenſive ſyſtem. A conſequence of this naval ſuperiority of Great Britain is, that the authority of the other European governments, in their reſpective colonies, has been greatly weakened and the national reſponſibility for the conduct of their local Adminiſtrations, has of courſe proportionably diminiſhed. In the Weſt-Indies, the evils and dangers incident to this ſtate of things, are extenſive and imminent. The colony of St. Domingo has declared itſelf in a ſtate of independence, and is at open war with the remaining colonies of France, not a veſtige of the commercial marine of France remains in any part of the Weſt-Indies. All theſe colonies require eſſential ſupplies which can only be obtained from the United States, by commerce, by force, or by ſubmiſſion to the power of Great Britain. But though all the French colonies are deſirous of encouraging commerce with the United States, yet in conſequence of their mutual diſſentions, and the ſtate of ſociety in certain places, property in unarmed veſſels is utterly inſecure.

Your memorialiſts conſider it to be incontrovertible, that no nation can juſtly authoriſe the capture or detention of neutral veſſels in conſequence of rights incident to a ſtate of war, without eſtabliſhing at the ſame time, regular and impartial tribunals for deciding on the legality of

ſuch captures, according to principles recognized in treaties, or by the general law of nations. Whether the tribunals, in all or any of the French colonies are of the deſcription required by the uſages of civilized ſtates, your memorialiſts will not preſume to enquire;—nor is the ſolution of this queſtion important, it being a well known and indiſputable fact, that American veſſels have been repeatedly captured, and the property divided and appropriated, by veſſels fitted out from ſmall ports, not under the controul of the Governor of the ſaid colonies. If, as appears probable, Spain has already, or will ſpeedily become a party to the exiſting war, the colonial commerce of this nation will probably be ſoon reduced to a ſtate of inaction, and in this caſe, the extenſive and thinly ſettled dominions of this power in America, will preſent opportunities and motives to reſtleſs bucaneers to extend their depredations on the commerce of the United States.—Your memorialiſts, however diſavow an intention by theſe obſervations to reflect unjuſtly on the general character of the French or Spaniſh adminiſtrations, as conniving at the acts of piracy; on the contrary they are willing to preſume, that the evils of which they complain, and the increaſe of which they ſeriouſly apprehend, are of a nature not to be preciſely foreſeen or prevented, by the exiſting authorities. Your Memorialiſts further repreſent, that they perceive no principle which can juſtify or require a reſtriction on the commerce of the United States with St. Domingo in armed veſſels, which will not, conſidering the circumſtances of that country, more ſtrongly demand that the commerce ſhould not be totally interdicted: If conſiderations of ſtate policy require that trade with any colony in the Weſt-Indies ſhould be interdicted, this neceſſity muſt of itſelf furniſh an additional argument in favor of arming American veſſels under proper regulations. To interdict commerce with a country deſirous of encouraging ſuch commerce, and incapable of ſubſiſting without it, will certainly be viewed as evidence of hoſtility or dependence, and it may be feared that the natural ſuggeſtions of reſentment will be ſtimulated by inducements of private intereſt, and the more cogent pleas of neceſſity. It may, therefore, happen that the United States, by diſarming their veſſels, to prevent the poſſibility of conflicts with unauthoriſed cruiſers may cauſe to concenter in St. Domingo a dangerous power, and thereby lay the foundation of a war of ſerious magnitude. Your memorialiſts being ſeriouſly anxious to preſerve peace with all nations, by obſerving a fair and impartial neutrality, and being only deſirous of protecting their property againſt a deſcription of cruiſers whoſe conduct cannot be controuled by regular tribunals, have conſidered with all the attention in their power, whether any, and if any, what objections can be advanced againſt the regulations now propoſed. In reſpect to G. Britain it may be obſerved, that it would be prepoſterous and abſurd to ſuſpect that any American Merchant would arm a veſſel at his own expence, with deſigns hoſtile to the rights or intereſts of that nation. Beſides, the propoſitions would provide for the inſpection of the veſſels which may be armed, thereby virtually pledging the honor of the United States, that ſuch veſſels are deſigned to be employed only in commerce unequivocally neutral or innocent. As not only Great Britain, but the otherbilligerent nations, employ conſuls and other agents in our principal ports, who are vigilant centinels in favor of the intereſts they repreſent, an auxiliary pledge may be derived from their examination, that the officers of the cuſtoms will remove every juſt cauſe of ſuſpicion. In this mode the neutral character of armed veſſels and their true deſtination, may be more completely aſcertained, than in the caſe of veſſels ſailing under public convoys, which are protected from the viſitation of privateers on the high ſeas, by a recent treaty between Great Britain and Ruſſia. It is deſerving of remark, that the preſent war as yet furniſhes no conſiderable object for privateers on the part of Great Britain, and that the owners of armed American veſſels would perceive an intereſt in inſtructing their commanders to obſerve a friendly and inoffenſive deportment towards armed veſſels of every deſcription. Experience of the conduct of American veſſels has hitherto afforded proof of the juſtice of this reaſoning, and as irregular conduct would be utterly unauthoriſed by the propoſed law, the conſequences of miſconduct in any particular inſtance would attach to the offending individuals, and could not endanger the peace of the United States. It may alſo be fairly preſumed, that the Britiſh government is not unmindful of exiſting tendencies, nor indifferent to the danger which would remotely affect their own colonies, from the eſtabliſhment of a predatory ſyſtem in the Weſt-Indies; a ſyſtem which has commenced, but which preſents no ſufficient object for the vigilance of their national ſhips; which offers no reward to the enterprize of their privateers; which attracts but little attention from the Britiſh merchants, whoſe commerce is protected by convoys; which therefore, can only be reſtrained my means poſſeſſed by the United States; and which if unreſtrained, will be nouriſhed by depredations on the unprotected commerce of the United States, and eventually become dangerous to the intereſts of all civilized nations. In reflecting on the intereſts and probable views of France, and the other European Nations, which have and are likely to become parties with her in the exiſting war, your memorialiſts are unable to diſcover a motive founded in public policy, which can excite their oppoſition to the regulations now propoſed. The commerce of neutral nations, even under the greateſt limitations authoriſed by the laws of nations, muſt remain to France and her allies a ſource of eſſential comfort and advantage. The depreſſion of the American commerce, from whatever cauſe, would neceſſarily increaſe the relative force and influence of their rival and enemy. A meaſure tending to obſtruct or deprive any of their colonies, however ſituated, of neceſſary ſupplies, cannot fail to diſcourage regular induſtry, to heighten ſentiments of hoſtility, to render a future re-eſtabliſhment of their ancient authority more difficult and uncertain, to direct commerce into new channels, leſs beneficial than the preſent, to the intereſts of the parent ſtate, and poſſibly to induce ſubmiſſion to the power of G. Britain. Independent of theſe conſiderations, the obligations of juſtice, and a regard to their own honor, require of the Governments of Europe to controul, if poſſible, and at all events diſavow, thoſe depredations which render the armament of American veſſels an indiſpenſible precaution for their ſecurity. As by the events of war, France has loſt the power of controuling abuſes in her colonies in the Weſt-Indies, it is juſt to conſider her reſponſibility as for the preſent ſuſpended, but it follows as a neceſſary conſequence, that the United States may without giving offence, authoriſe reaſonable meaſures for the ſecurity of their own rights. A defence by means of private armed veſſels under proper regulations is not only reaſonable, but from the nature of things, is that kind of defence which ought to excite the leaſt ſuſpicions, it being certain, that the degree of force employed and exerciſed will never exceed the meaſure required by neceſſity, as it will be regulated by calculations of commercial advantage to individuals, and in no degree by views of political aggrandizement.

Your memorialiſts might conclude their petition with theſe obſervations, but the great importance of the propoſed Law, not only in reſpect to the revenue and commercial proſperity of the United States, but as it may affect the right of every citizen to keep and bear arms will it is hoped be their excuſe for ſubjoining a few additional obſervations on the ſubject.

The inhabitants of the United States have immemorially claimed the right of poſſeſſing arms for the defence of their houſes, their lives, and property; this privilege has neither been ſurrendered, nor abridged, and every citizen, whether at home or upon the ocean has believed that he might lawfully carry arms in ſelf-defence. If this right be deemed important in the boſom of the ſtate, where the laws

and magiſtrates are ready to protect the citizen, how much more important muſt it be conſidered on the high ſeas, where every nation has a common juriſdiction, but no nation an excluſive one, where every nation is bound to afford protection to the perſons and property of its citizens, but no nation has magiſtrates to grant it, where aggreſſion is moſt frequent and the means of defence moſt neceſſary.

Your memorialiſts are duly ſenſible that congreſs poſſeſs the "power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, among the ſeveral ſtates, and with the Indian tribes," but with all deference they preſume to enquire, whether under this power a law may be enacted by which the citizens of the U. States ſhall be deprived of a right which has been ſuppoſed to be ſecured to them by the conſtitutions of the ſeveral ſtates. Your memorialiſts forbear to add, but humbly requeſt that no law may be paſſed to prevent private veſſels from ſailing in an armed condition; or in caſe a law on this ſubject is deemed neceſſary, that its proviſions may be conformed to the principles contained in the preſent memorial, and as in duty they will ever pray.

Signed, By order of the Corporation of the Chamber of Commerce.

JOHN MURRAY, Preſident.

New York, 21ſt Dec. 1804.

Be it our weekly task,
To note the paſſing tidings of the times.

Hudſon, *January* 8.

It is now aſcertained, that the late fires in New-York, have originated in deſign.

Two dwelling houſes at Norfolk, Vir. were lately deſtroyed by fire.

Origin of the fire at St. Thomas.—We are informed by a gentleman from St. Thomas, that the late diſtreſſing fire at that place, was occaſioned by the following circumſtance:—A domeſtic, in the act of fumigating a chamber to clear it of thoſe peſts of theſe climates, muſquetoes, accidentally let the candle come in contact with a muſquetoe-net, which being very combuſtible, was immediately in flames, and ſpread over the whole room—The fire could not be arreſted: and it was eſtimated that the loſs of property occaſioned by this accident exceeded ſeven millions of dollars. *Phil. pap.*

WASHINGTON, DEC. 31, 1804.

Laſt evening diſpatches were received at Head Quarters, and have been read in the houſe, from Conſuls O'Brien and Gavino.

Early in September Commodore Preble attempted another bombardment of Tripoli. In this attack many Americans were killed and a great number were wounded: many of the enemy alſo, were deſtroyed. An American fire ſhip blew up in the midſt of the action and every ſoul were loſt: among the reſt a ſon of General Wadſworth member of Congreſs. In ſhort the enterprize failed. Some time after it was over, Commodore Barron arrived with his ſquadron: but the ſeaſon was gone by: for ſuch is the tempeſtuous weather that now ſits in, that the gun boats, which alone can be employed in theſe attacks, cannot live on the coaſt.

The diſpatches are ordered to be printed.

NEW-YORK, JAN. 4.

Captain Hamilton, who arrived, here yeſterday, from Naples, has brought diſpatches for Government, from Commodore Preble, of the American ſquadron, who was hourly expected at Naples. Theſe diſpatches were forwarded by the American Conſul at Tunis. We have no news reſpecting the late operations of the ſquadron.

Another attempt has been made to ſet fire to the houſe no. 95 Pearl-ſtreet. Burning combuſtibles were diſcovered yeſterday morning before any damage was done. There are various conjectures relative to the attempts on this houſe. Some inveſtigation will ſoon take place.

FOREIGN.

PARIS, 28th VENDEMAIRE.

Admiral Bruix by a letter of the 13th, informs the Miniſter of Marine of the arrival of 60 veſſels of the Havre flotilla at Boulogne, under the command of Capt. Monteabril. The diviſion of the fleet forced its way through the Engliſh cruizers. —A ſquadron compoſed of ſeveral frigates and ſloops of war, made an attack on the rear. The gun-boats faced the enemy and a ſmart engagement enſued. The enemy's frigates in quitting the action took in tow one of the ſloops of war that appeared to have ſuffered ſeverely. All the inhabitants of Fecamp were witneſs of the engagement. One of the gun-boats acquired diſtinguiſhed honor, and was an object of lively acclamation to the ſpectators.—Off D'Ailli near Dieppe, Capt. Montcabril ſuſtained a ſecond conteſt, which laſted two hours, and which was not leſs honorable to him.—The Engliſh were obliged to ſheer off, whilſt the gun-boats purſued to a certain diſtance.

LONDON, OCTOBER 25.

A French paper of the 14th ſays, that the inſurrection in Biſcay is by no means ſuppreſſed, and that a very ſerious one is broken out in the iſland of Majorca; the garriſon, in endeavouring to ſuppreſs it, ſuffered very ſeverely, and the regiment of Bourbon was nearly deſtroyed.

NOVEMBER 2.

Sir George Rumbold, the Britiſh Reſident at Hamburgh, with his papers, has been ſeized by a party of 200 French infantry who ſurpriſed him at his houſe, about a mile from the city, and carried him off. The Senate of Hamburgh, the day after this outrage, ſent to the French Reſident to inquire the cauſe of it, and to demand his liberation. The miniſter ſaid he was ignorant of the cauſe, but ſuppoſed it to be a ſuit of Mr. Drake's affair.

It is ſaid that Mr. Nichols, our Conſul at Hamburgh, has taken refuge in the houſe of Mr. Forbes, the American reſident. If the French wiſhed to ſeize him too, they would not reſpect that aſylum.

Couriers announcing the outrage have been ſent to all the principal Courts. We ſhould think that this repetition of the ſcandalous violation of the Germanic territory at Ettenheim will at leaſt extort from the Continental Powers ſome meaſures for the protection of the moſt ſacred intercourſe of nations. If Fouche, the French Miniſter of Police, is to iſſue his mandates of arreſt againſt individuals, nay, Ambaſſadors, in a neutral territory, he may ſend his arches to ſeize his prey in the Palace of the Emperor of Auſtria or the King of Pruſſia.—Others may feel the effects of Bonaparte's lawleſs violence, but their turn may come if they have not the courage to defend the common law of nations.

The French Commercial Agent, who yet reſides at Gottenburgh, has received an order from his Government to quit Sweden immediately.

CONSTANTINOPLE, SEP. 10.

A fire of eight days continuance has to day laid in aſhes five moſques and about 1000 houſes. In the night of the 7th, a large village in the vicinity of the capital, principally inhabited by Jews, was likewiſe burned.

SEPTEMBER 22.

The late deſtructive fire which laid the village of Tophabia, and the artillery barracks, in aſhes, is attributed to the diſcontent of the population on account of the ſcarcity of bread. The Janiſſaries likewiſe have not received their pay for ſome time.

Wreath.

THE BRITISH SAILOR.

[From a poem, entitled, "Naucratia; or Naval Dominion," written by the British Poet-Laureat, James Pye, Esq.]

"'Tis not the oak whose hardy branches wave
O'er Britain's cliffs and all her tempests brave;
'Tis not the ore her iron bowels yield,
The cordage growing on her fertile field,
That forms her naval strength—'Tis the bold race
Laughing at toil, and gay in danger's face,
Who quit with joy, when fame and glory lead,
Their richest pasture and their greenest mead,
The perils of the stormy deep to dare,
And jocund own their dearest pleasures there.
One common zeal the manly race inspires,
One common cause each ardent bosom fires,
From the bold youth whose agile limbs ascend
The giddy mast when angry winds contend,
And while the yard dips low its pointed arm,
Clings to the cord, and sings amidst the storm,
To the experienced chief, who knows to guide
The labouring vessel through the rolling tide;
Or when contending squadrons fierce engage,
Directs the battle's thunder where to rage:—
All, all alike with cool unfeign'd delight
Brave the tempestuous gale, and court the fight.
Britain! with jealous industry maintain
The sacred sources of this genuine train,
Daring beyond what fable sings of old,
Yet mild in conquest, and humane as bold;
Now rushing on the foe with frown severe,
Now mov'd to mercy by compassion's tear.—
Fierce as the ruthless elements they brave
When their wrong'd country calls them to the wave;
Mild as the softest breeze that fans thy isle,
When sooth'd by peace and wooing beauty's smile.
A race peculiar to thy happy coast,
But lost by folly once, forever lost,
Never from the lap of luxury and ease
Shall spring the hardy warrior of the seas—
A toilsome youth the mariner must form,
Nurs'd on the wave, and cradled in the storm."

A RHAPSODY.

AS I walk'd by myself, I said to myself.
And myself said again to me,
Look to thyself, take care of thyself,
For nobody cares for thee;
Then I said to myself, and thus answer'd myself,
With the self-same repartee,
Look to thyself, or look not to thyself,
'Tis the self-same thing to me.

EPITAPH ON A WIDOWER.

Beneath this stone lies Peter Foster.
Who married a wife—and *luckily lost her.*

Diversity.

A RIGHT HONEST FELLOW.

[The singular letter which is copied below, exhibits as much true, genuine, native villany, as any thing of the kind we have ever seen.—Alas, poor human nature! Edit. Bal.]

FROM THE SAVANNAH MUSEUM.

Messrs. Printers,

THE following is a copy of a letter from a character who lately resided in this city, (but who has removed to St. Augustine, and become a subject of *His Most Catholic Majesty*) to a gentleman residing here, to whose liberality he was for a long time indebted for his supply of Goods—the letter needs no comments.

St. Augustine, Nov. 23d, 1804.

Mr. ——, Sir,

YOUR letter of the 28th October came to hand, you write that Mr. M—— is dead, which I am sorry to hear, but there can be no doubt but his estate is fully sufficient to pay his debts, however be that as it will, you may make the most of what you have got from me, for you may *wres* assured that I will never pay you 'one Cent more.' I suppose that you do not know that the King's proclamation protects both me and my property, if I had a full store of goods in Augustine, you could not touch one inch of them for debts contracted in the States before I became a Spanish Subject, except you can find me in the States, and it is my full opinion that you will not very soon—If I should contract debts in the States after I become a Spanish subject I make myself liable in Augustine, but as it is now you may whistle what tune you please for your own amusement, but let me beg you not to trouble me with any more of your folderol—for I will not answer you—

Yours, &c.

OBADIAH POTTER.

[We recollect to have seen the following anecdote, some years since; and we now find it revived in a Southern paper. If substantially correct, it is erroneous in at least one particular; for according to Gen Hamilton's account of himself, he came to this country when only sixteen years of age. We are, on the whole, inclined to doubt the truth of the story:— Edit. Bal.]

ANECDOTE OF GEN. HAMILTON.

WHEN a youth of seventeen he was chief clerk of an eminent merchant at St. Eustatia, who being absent, the business of the compting-room of course devolved on young Hamilton. He had handed to him a letter directed to his master, which, supposing it related to mercantile concerns he opened, but his surprize was great when he found it contained a *Challenge* to his master, whose proxy he was: the young hero answered the challenge in the name of his master, and the time and place was mentioned in the reply. Hamilton appeared to the antagonist of his master on the field; and to use his own words, "did his *business* in his absence," and would not agree to any compromise, except on the express condition that the Challenger should acknowledge in writing, that he had received suitable satisfaction from Mr. ——, that he was a gentleman of honor, &c. and, further, that he (Hamilton) should never be known in the business—which the challenger was obliged to accede to or fight young Hamilton; he chose the former, and the parties separated—In a few months, however, it came to his master's ear, who was so struck with the magnanimity of such conduct, that he gave him liberty to come to the Continent, choose what profession he pleased, and draw on him to any amount.

The *Orange Eagle* furnishes the following singular Hymenial notice:

Married at *Amity*, on the 10th inst. by Joshua Wells, Esq. Mr. Garrit Decker, of *Brimstone Hill*, to the *delicate* Miss Keziah Gardenhouse, of *Mares Point*, both near *Skunk's Misery*, in the Village of *Mount Eve*.

TERMS OF THE BALANCE,
FOR 1805.

To City Subscribers, Two Dollars and Fifty Cents, payable quarterly.

To those who receive them by mail, Two Dollars, payable in advance.

To those who take their papers at the office, in bundles, or otherwise, a deduction from the city price will be made.

A handsome Title Page and Table of Contents will accompany the last number of the volume.

Advertisements inserted in a handsome and conspicuous manner, in the *Advertiser* which accompanies the Balance.

NOTE.

The first second and third Volumes of the Balance may be had on the following terms:—

First Volume—unbound— -	$ 2
Second Volume, - -	$ 2, 50
Third Volume, - - -	$ 2, 50
The three together, - -	$ 6

If bound, the price of binding (either plain or elegant) will be added.—An unbound volume may be sent to any post-office in the state for 52 cents postage; or to any post-office in the union for 78 cents

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